

Message Text

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TOSEC 89

THE FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT OF AMEMBASSY LISBON 4207

ACTION TO SECSTATE INFO LOURENCO MARQUES LUANDA

MADRID LONDON PARIS USCINCEUR DIA OPORTO PONTA

DELGADA 30 SEPTEMBER 1974. QUOTE:

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PO PINS MILI

SUBJ: SITREP 7: ANALYSIS OF SPINOLA RESIGNATION SPEECH

REF: LISBON 4193

1. IN SOMBER TONES, PRESIDENT SPINOLA DENOUNCED THE EMERGENCE OF A GENERALIZED CLIMATE OF ANARCHY IN WHICH INEVITABLE CRISIS AND CHAOS EMERGE TO CONTRADICT THE IDEALS OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT. RATHER THAN BETRAY THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE, FOR WHOM "NEW FORMS OF SERVITUDE UNDER THE BANNER OF A FALSE LIBERTY" ARE BEING PREPARED, HE THEREFORE HAS CHOSEN TO RESIGN.

2. SPINOLA SAID HIS POSITION STEMS FROM HIS TOTAL ADHERENCE, FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, WITH A SINCERETY WHICH NOBODY DARES TO DOUBT, TO THE IDEALS OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT. THIS IDENTIFICA-
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WITH THE AFM AND ITS PROGRAM GIVES HIM UNDENIABLE AUTHORITY TO CONCLUDE THAT THE CURRENT GRAVE SITUATION HAS ARISEN PRECISELY BECAUSE THE PROGRAM'S IDEALS HAVE BEEN SET ASIDE. THE EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT THE AFM'S PROGRAM HAS BEEN EVOLVING WITHIN A POLITICAL FRAMEWORK WHICH IS TENDING, ULTIMATELY, TO THE PROGRAM'S NEUTRALIZATION. SPINOLA WILL NOT AND CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCESS.

3. THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES DEMONSTRATE HOW THE AFM'S PROGRAM HAS GONE AWRY:

A) OVERSEAS POLICY - WAS TO RESULT IN ATTAINING PEACEFUL RELATIONS AMONG ALL PORTUGUESE, OF ALL RACES AND BELIEFS; A POLICY WHICH HAS BEEN TWISTED BY THE DELIBERATE USE OF MEANS WHICH ARE ANTI-DEMOCRATIC AND INJURIOUS TO THE TRUE INTERESTS OF THE AFRICAN POPULATIONS;

B) DOMESTIC POLITICAL HARMONY - WHILE THE DECLARED HEADS OF A FEW PARTIES APPEAL FOR GOOD SENSE, THEIR RESPECTIVE MINIONS BY MEANS OF THE INFORMATION MEDIA MOUNT A CAMPAIGN OF PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE AGAINST THEIR OPPONENTS;

C) FUNDAMENTAL SOCIAL CHANGES TO BE LEFT FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF DEMOCRATICALLY CHOSEN INSTITUTIONS -- GIVEN THE PREVAILING CLIMATE OF ABSENCE OF LAW, THIS PRINCIPLE HAS BEEN MENACED, IF NOT COMPLETELY COMPROMISED, BY BASIC CHANGES THAT HAVE BEEN TRANSPIRING DAILY;

D) NO INTERNAL CONVULSIONS -- INSTEAD OF ENJOYING TRANQUILITY, PORTUGUESE LIFE HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY LABOR DISPUTES AND INCREASING ECONOMIC INSTABILITY.

4. FOR ALL OF THIS, RESPONSIBILITY MUST BE LAID AT THE FEET OF "POLITICAL GROUPS WHOSE IDEOLOGICAL NATURE IS OFFENSIVE TO THE MOST BASIC CONCEPT OF LIBERTY IN FLAGRANT CONTRADICTION TO THE SPIRIT OF APRIL 25".

5. ALTHOUGH THE PRESIDENT FINDS IT TOTALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO CONSTRUCT GENUINE DEMOCRACY GIVEN THE PREVAILING CLIMATE, HE CONCLUDED WITH AN APPEAL TO ALL PORTUGUESE TO MAINTAIN "SERENE SPIRITS", KEEP THE PEACE, AND HAVE CONFIDENCE IN DEMOCRACY'S GREAT ARM -- THE FORCE OF THE SECRET BALLOT.

6. COMMENT: FACT THAT SPINOLA WAS PERMITTED TO MAKE A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SWAN SONG ROASTING THE POLITICAL OPPONENTS HE LEAVES BEHIND IN POWER STRENGTHENS OUR BELIEF THAT THE DECISION TO RESIGN WAS HIS. EVENTS HAD CONSPIRED TO DIMINISH HIM AND TO LEAVE HIM WITH A DISTINCTLY MINORITY GRASP ON POWER HAD HE ELECTED TO STAY. SINCE WE JUDGE THAT AT BASIS OF RECENT CRISIS WAS HIS INABILITY TO SHARE POWER EVEN WHEN HE HAD MAJOR SHARE, PROSPECT OF CONTINUING IN OFFICE WITH REDUCED PROSPECTS OF

REGAINING EVEN FORMER POWER POSITION WAS APPARENTLY
UNACCEPTABLE TO HIM. WHILE THERE AS YET NO
INDICATIONS OF HIS FUTURE PLANS, HIS CLOSING
REFERENCE TO SECRET BALLOT MAY BE HINT THAT HE
MIGHT NOW, THROUGH ELECTORAL PROCESS, SEEK POWER
THAT HAS SO FAR ELUDED HIM.
SCOTT

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